

Message Text

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71

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 IO-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

NIC-01 DRC-01 /206 W

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R 101610Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4825

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 2007

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MT, CH

SUBJ: DISCUSSION WITH PRC EMBASSY OFFICIAL

1. AT REGULAR MONTHLY DIPLOMATIC LUNCHEON EMBOFF HAD
LENGTHY DISCUSSION WITH PRC FIRST SECRETARY YU CHUN.

2. FOLLOWING SUBJECTS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST WERE COVERED:

A. ONLY ONE PRC TECHNICAL TEAM REMAINS IN MALTA.
THIS TEAM IS COMPLETING DRILLING AND TESTING FOR THE
300,000 TON DRYDOCK AND IS EXPECTED TO FINISH ITS WORK
AND DEPART WITHIN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS. YU SAID THAT
BECAUSE THIS DRYDOCK WAS LARGER THAN ANYTHING THEY HAD
BUILT IN THE PRC, IT WAS TURNING OUT TO BE A BIG AND
DIFFICULT JOB FOR THEM. IN THIS REGARD HE INQUIRED
IF THE AMERICANS AND THE DUTCH HAD NOT BEEN PROPOSITIONED
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TO BUILD THE DRYDOCK. AFTER ANALYSIS OF THE DRILLING

RESULTS, YU INDICATED CONSIDERABLE MORE DESIGN WORK WOULD BE REQUIRED. HE SAID THAT WHEN ACTUAL CONSTRUCTION BEGINS, PROBABLY BETWEEN 100 AND 200 CHINESE SUPERVISORS, ENGINEERS AND TECHNICIANS WILL BE ASSIGNED TO MALTA, BUT NO MANUAL LABORERS ARE EXPECTED.

B. REGARDING OTHER PRC AID PROJECTS, YU STATED FIVE MOST RECENT PROJECTS ANNOUNCED (VALLETTA A-173) ARE THE LAST UNDER TERMS OF THE CURRENT SINO-MALTESE AGREEMENT. HE SAID THAT THE TEXTILE FACTORY COULD BE EXPECTED TO EMPLOY UP TO 1000 DEPENDING UPON MARKETING SUCCESS, AND REMAINING FOUR PROJECTS WOULD EMPLOY ABOUT 500 IN TOTAL.

C. YU STATED THAT THE EMBASSY PLANNED TO DO SOME RENOVATING OF THEIR NEW CHANCERY TO INCLUDE EXPANSION OF OFFICES AND PARTICULARLY OF A RECEPTION AREA WHERE THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO GIVE FILM SHOWS. YU ALSO SAID THEY PLANNED TO BUILD ANOTHER BUILDING IN THE ST. JULIANS COMPOUND BUT CONCEDED THIS WOULD PROBABLY TAKE A COUPLE OF YEARS BEFORE COMPLETION.

D. YU EXPRESSED MILD INTEREST IN BUT UNCRITICAL REACTION TO WATERGATE; HE EXPRESSED INABILITY TO UNDERSTAND BACKGROUND OR POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS. IN DISCUSSION OF RECENT BREZHNEV OFFER TO SIGN NON-AGGRESSION PACT WITH PRC, YU STATED PRC POSITION AS BEING THAT SINO/SOVIET TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND ALLIANCE OF 1950 WAS STILL IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT, THEREFORE ONLY IMPLEMENTATION OF CURRENT VALID AGREEMENT WAS REQUIRED, NOT NEW NON-AGGRESSION PACT. HE CONTINUED THAT THIS SAME SITUATION PERTAINED AT KOSYGIN/CHOU EN LAI AIRPORT MEETING IN 1969 WHEN KOSYGIN SUGGESTED AGREEMENT ON NON-USE OF FORCE AND NON-AGGRESSION. HE COMMENTED THAT RECENT BREZHNEV PROPOSAL WAS PRIMARILY FOR INTERNAL CONSUMPTION WITHIN USSR. HE ALSO ADDED THAT WHILE SINO/SOVIET BORDER TALKS WERE STILL IN EXISTENCE THEY WERE "IN SUSPENSE."
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